

Ontwa Township Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2023

www.ontwatwp.org

Call to Order: The regular monthly meeting of the Ontwa Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Jerry Marchetti at 7:00pm on February 13, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Supervisor Marchetti, Clerk VanBelle, Treasurer Leist, Trustees Stutsman, Christensen, Kozinski and Bolock were present.

Approval of Agenda: Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Trustee Bolock. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Comment: Karen Nelson of the Cass County Conservation District spoke on a Pollinators Workshop to be held at the Cass County Library, March 11 at 9:30 am. For additional information and to sign up go to casscocd@gmail.com, or call 269.445.8641, Ext 5. Richard Yoder, Township Building Inspector, addressed the pending approval of the amendments to the PC ordinance.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Trustee Bolock made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Treasurer Leist. Motion passed on a roll call vote, 7 ayes 0 nays.

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Roseann Marchetti: Sam Barrera introduced himself as 1 of 5 newly elected County Commissioners. The Conservation District will do free water testing at the Dowagiac Library on February 15, from 1-4pm. Two new assistant prosecutors have been added to the prosecutor's staff. Five precincts have been selected to undergo audits for the November 2022 election. The audit will take place at the Cass County Library on February 14th and 15th. The public is welcome to attend. A Rabies Clinic will be held on February 25 from 9am-2pm. Call the shelter, 269.445.370, for more information and to reserve a spot. A grant has been awarded to extend the beach at Stone Lake southward.

Committee Board Reports:

Wastewater: Brigid Forlenza: Annual sewer maintenance will begin mid to late April in the JPC area. Reimbursement for the repair of the manhole on Section Street was received.

Zoning: Leroy Krempec: The Zoning Department continues to work on short-term rentals, home business renewals, and violations.

Ambulance: Trustee Stutsman: The ambulance staff is at 10 medics currently. Twelve is considered to be fully staffed.

Police: Brigid Forlenza: The department has received a \$5,000 in-car-camera grant. Edwardsburg Schools received a grant to hire a school resource officer.

Buildings & Grounds: Trustee Stutsman: Working on replacing the led lights on the outside sign.

Planning Commission: Trustee Bolock: Plann Commission elected officers at the last meeting. There were no requests for land divisions. Eddies Market Place rezoning was tabled.

Township Roads: Trustee Kozinski: Asking residents to report potholes. To do so call the township at 269.663.2347.

Fire Board: John Hanson: The staffing study has been completed and results will be reviewed on February 28 at 6:00pm at the Fire Station. The public is welcome to attend.

Parks Board: Trustee Kozinski: No update

Adamsville Cemetery Board: Trustee Christensen: Will be getting a quote to erect a fence around the area where items are discarded. The price of a gravesite will be increased to \$500 effective immediately. Discussion on length of time for board members.

Old Business: Elkhart Road Project: A public meeting was held to discuss this tonight at 6:30.

New Business:

Changes to the PC Ordinance: Trustee Bolock read amendments to the ordinance sections 1604, 20.02 and 20.04. After discussion Trustee Stutsman made a motion to send the amendments back to the Zoning Board to review the C of O issue, seconded by Clerk VanBelle. Motion passed on a roll call vote. 4 ayes,

(Marchetti, VanBelle, Leist, Stutsman) 3 nays, (Bolock, Christensen, Kozinski). An ordinance to amend Zoning Ordinance, Article II, to add a new section 2.46A related to solar energy systems, and Article III to add a new section 3.38 for small scale solar energy systems, and Article V, section 5.02 to add subsection (S) related to utility scale solar energy systems, passed on a roll call vote. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Stryker Invoice ARPA Funds: Clerk VanBelle made a motion to use ARPA Funds to pay for the lift that was purchased for the Ambulance Department, at a cost of \$1,150.96, second by Treasurer Leist. Motion passed on a roll call vote. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution to Adjust/Amend the FY 2022/2023 Budget: Clerk VanBelle read Resolution 2023-2-13.3 to transfer \$3,000 from Repairs/ Additions to Election Funds to cover the cost of state mandated mailings and \$15,000 from Repairs/Additions to Building Inspections. Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve, second by Trustee Kozinski. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

2022 Planning Commission Annual Report: Trustee Bolock made a motion to approve, seconded by Treasurer Leist. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays. The report may be viewed on the township website.

Clean Earth Gravity Cleaning: Trustee Stutsman made a motion to approve a quote to clean the JPC area at a cost of \$26,565.93, second by Clerk VanBelle. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution to Set Cemetery Fees: Clerk VanBelle read Resolution 2023-2-13.2 to adjust the fee per plot to \$500. Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Stutsman. Motion passed on a roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Announcements: Next regular Township Board meeting will be March 13th, Ambulance Board February 11th, Police Board February 12th, Wastewater Board February 22nd, Planning Commission March 1st, and Cemetery Board on March 6th. A budget workshop will be held on February 16th at 6pm, the public is welcome to attend.

Adjourn: Trustee Stutsman made a motion to adjourn, second by Trustee Kozinski. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk

Date Approved: _____

Linda Weaver, Recording Secretary